

tions on the female pelvic organs, on the arteries, on bones and on joints are omitted. Each chapter takes up a certain surgical condition and the most practical operations for the relief of that condition are given. All antiquated methods are omitted. The descriptions are clear, short and well illustrated, in many places illustrations take the place of lengthy descriptions. Some chapters close with well-chosen remarks by the author containing his own preferences and advice resulting from his own experience. The book is a very serviceable one and is designed for practical use by the surgeon.

PAUL M. PILCHER.

THE TECHNIC OF MODERN OPERATIONS FOR HERNIA. By ALEXANDER HUGH FERGUSON, M.B., C.M., F.T.M.S. Professor of Clinical Surgery, Medical Department of the University of Illinois; Professor of Surgery at the Chicago Post-Graduate Medical School, Chicago, Ill. Illustrated by reproductions of original drawings from the author's collection. Chicago, Cleveland Press, 1907.

The text of Ferguson's book is divided into two parts, Part I giving the general considerations, classification, indications for operation, aseptic and surgical technique, complications of hernia, and the results of operations for hernia. Part II is devoted entirely to operations for the cure of hernia.

The work presents only the surgical phase of the subject; while omitting discussions of etiology, symptoms and diagnosis, some space is given to the causes leading up to and predisposing to hernia. The author has had a wide experience in the treatment of hernia and naturally preference is given to the expression of his own ideas concerning the proper methods of preparing for and operating upon hernia. At the same time he quotes freely from the literature and faithfully describes the operations of other men. The illustrations are clear and good, but are not well distributed throughout the book, seldom appearing opposite the text which they illustrate. The author goes into detail in treating of the various suture materials, the methods of preparing the patient, and makes throughout many pertinent remarks relative to the personal equation on the part of the surgeon. He prefers antiseptic to aseptic catgut. His methods of preparing the patient for operation are very good and show that he considers simplicity

and routine in these matters of importance. He insists upon the surgeon changing all clothing before the operation, and would prohibit talking by the surgeon while operating; two points in operative technique which most men do not observe. He recommends that the appendix be always brought out and inspected through a hernia wound, and also recommends that, if desirable, a thorough examination of the pelvic and abdominal cavities may be made through the wound which is to be enlarged if necessary. In speaking of the necessity of operating upon inguinal hernia when present, he writes as follows:

"All hernias of the inguinal variety in both sexes between two and forty years of age, should be cured by operation if circumstances and physical condition permit of it. No young man or woman is doing justice to his or her development and health by nursing a rupture during school or college life, let alone the many risks incidentally encountered on play-ground and campus."

The mortality following hernia operations he gives as less than one-quarter of one per cent. In illustrating Kocher's operation for inguinal hernia, he gives the lateral transposition method, while Kocher now uses the transposition method by invagination, where feasible, which he considers a marked advance in the technique of his operation. He accepts the advice of Bloodgood in opening the sheath of the rectus muscle and suturing the muscle to Poupart's ligament, where the conjoined tendon is not sufficiently strong to be used. The advisability of this would be questioned by some surgeons. The monograph is one of the best and most thorough treatises that has yet appeared on the surgical aspect of hernia.

PAUL M. PILCHER.

MANUAL OF SURGERY. By ALEXIS THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and Alexander Miles, F.R.C.S., Assistant Surgeon Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Two volumes. Second edition revised and enlarged. Pentland, Edinburgh and London. 1906.

Volume I is a treatise on General Surgery, and although small, still contains 770 pages of reading matter. Such a treatise can not be considered a hand-book, and is a systematic view of the present-day aspect of surgery, meaning to be useful to the practitioner and at the same time available as a text-book and manual